

ABSTRACT

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A near-field optical head which can be manufactured using a silicon process and illuminate and detect sufficient light from a very small aperture at all times in a state of stably proximate to a media.

The near-field optical head (3000) is structured by a very small aperture (3008) formed at an apex of a taper, a light introducing part (3002) for propagating light in a direction generally parallel with a media, and a light reflection layer (3001) for reflecting the light propagated through the light introducing part (3002) toward the very small aperture (3008). Furthermore, a focusing function is structurally provided for illuminating the light focused on the very small aperture (3008).